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THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

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It is proposed to publish from time to time in the JOURNAL, whenever space will permit, a series of papers on things of general interest to nurses, and to discuss subjects about which many of us would like to say a word. Anything that binds us more closely together is an advantage, and free discussion helps to clear a subject to many minds.

Any friend of the guild, or, for that matter, any reader of the JOURNAL, is asked to send contributions on this subject, and we shall be glad to get as many different opinions as possible. The paper which appeared in last month's issue, called "What to Do with the Margin," formed No. 1 of this series, and it has struck us that it would be a good thing to hear from any who, though outside of the guild, take an interest in its welfare.

Two articles have appeared in our department lately on the subject of a central object for the guild work, one from Orange and one from Boston, and the same point of view was taken in each, that we were in duty bound to work for ourselves in our old age. This may be true, but surely the appeals from the Church Missions House appear to have roused a different spirit in the minds of many, for a goodly number of letters have been received asking for more information on this subject.

Now the council is approaching and the subject may come up again, and the question presents itself to us: Do we want to work only for ourselves, or shall we spread our influence more in mission work?

The term mission work often brings up before one's mental vision palm-trees, brown natives, huts, and, mayhap, if one have a vivid imagination, a jungle and tigers, and has a sort of "India's-coral-strand" effect, as it were.

We know, however, that a vast field is taken in by mission effort, and those who talk loudest against wasting money on the foreign field, and who claim most strenuously the right of the heathen to believe as he likes, are often open to the miseries of the poor in their own city.

We cannot all emulate the lady who was so devoted to missions that her friends laughingly declared they dared not present her with their photographs lest she offer them to the cause, nor even equal that pathetic tale which came out in some paper of the poor woman who for twenty years had saved money, little by little, to purchase herself a silk dress, and one night at a missionary meeting was so moved by an earnest appeal that she put her long-hoarded money into the fund asked for.

We grant these are extreme cases, but can't we do something? Nurses say they are worn out helping others anyhow, and there are rich people who have time and money for charitable work. This is very true, but do we not know that many of us felt a truer thrill of joy for the relief we were enabled in the hospital to give some poor, wretched patient than for all our hours spent in

private nursing over the sons and daughters of luxury, who could pay for anything they got, and who often felt that the money was all they need bestow?

Far be it from our purpose to decry well-paid nursing. The laborer is truly worthy of his hire, especially when the work is so exacting and when the laborer lasts, generally speaking, so short a time, but must this be all? The nurse does works of mercy always and wherever she may be working; it is impossible, from the nature of her work, that she should do otherwise, and why can we not send some of this mercy where it is most needed? Think of the missions open to us. The Church is constantly telling us of them, and in the dryest statistics of the State they appear also.

We hear of needy cases every day, and still the cry goes on: "I have my living to earn, and I cannot afford to do charity work." Perhaps some of us cannot afford it; some may be wage-earners for others, but some of us may do it, and if we cannot give our lives to it, we may occasionally give a little time as a rest and change from the unending round of well-paid nursing.

What, after all, do most of us earn but a living? and that we should have anyway.

We would beg the guild at large to think of this, to work for others if we may, to pray for mission work and workers always.

How many of us really give any time or money or prayer to missions? They seem so far away, so removed from our ordinary sphere of work, and it is sad but true that many of us consider that prayer is rather a weak and useless means of helping anything!

If we merely say a perfunctory and set petition at set times, this may be true, but earnest, hearty supplication can surely not be displeasing to the loving Father to whose ever-listening ear it is sent.

Why cannot some nurses, after a long season of "good cases," do a little charity work? Why cannot we feel it incumbent upon us to take an active and lively interest in some of the charities of our city? It is surely a bad thing to put a mercantile value on every bit of our professional work. There are many organizations for the benefit of nurses, sick-relief associations and other things of that sort, but if the guild as a whole would unite in some charitable and missionary effort it would surely be a blessed thing for us all.

Let us, at any rate, cultivate the missionary spirit, which is the spirit of love for our fellow-creatures. It is opening our hearts and taking all mankind into them. Surely this is the way to do work of any kind, and who can doubt its reward when we remember who it was that said: "As ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me."

ORANGE, N. J.—The first meeting of our new year was held at Grace Church, Orange, on Thursday, October 1, the change from our usual date being made necessary by the late return home of members who have been away. A large attendance was a gratifying point, in view of the important meeting which followed the usual service, at which the rector and chaplain of the branch made a brief address of welcome, earnestly exhorting all to renewed efforts in guild work and the performance of their religious duties, the chief outward sign being attendance at church, for which there are such ample opportunities. Committees were appointed to draw up the calendar for the year and present it at the next meeting, also to gather suggestions for the needlework meetings during the winter. Another will report on the objects to be fully discussed at the council

meeting, on the central object to be worked for by the whole guild, and there are many who hope that the idea already sketched by "Orange" will be further developed and adopted. A discussion was raised as to the limit of those who may occupy the guild-room at the Nurses' Settlement. It was agreed to admit all graduate and pupil nurses who may desire to use it, guild nurses having the preference, and a committee was formed to take charge of applications and other matters that may arise. We announce with sincere regret the death of a recently admitted associate, who had for many years served most admirably as matron of the House of the Good Shepherd, who will long be mourned there by the aged inmates. Miss E. Breakey passed in her sleep to her eternal reward on September 21. Miss Lotta Layton is now in the Memorial Hospital suffering from typhoid fever, which we earnestly hope will only prove a light case. The Fresh Air work of the joint committees in the Oranges has had a most successful season. Two active members and one associate served as matrons during the three months, and graduate nurses gave their services for one week each during the entire time. About two hundred and fifty people were taken down to Bradley Beach in parties for one week, fully seventy-five remaining on for two or more weeks, according to the need of their cases.

THE Boston Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas held its first meeting after the summer recess at St. Stephen's Church on the evening of Wednesday, September 30. There was a very good attendance for the first meeting after an interval, and we were glad to have with us the secretary of the Philadelphia Branch of the guild, who was visiting in Boston. At the business meeting a report was read on the subject of the Calendar Club of the Henry M. Torbert Memorial Fund, and we were glad to learn that our money had all been collected and paid. The delegates to the council were then elected. Miss Mary Sargent was the associate, alternate Mrs. Sprague, and Miss Caldwell was chosen as the member to represent us, the alternate being Miss Butt. The chaplain read a letter from Fitchburg, describing the progress made in our new branch, which was very gratifying. He also told us of the new dispensary work to be organized at St. Stephen's under the direction of Dr. George Monks and Dr. Horace Spinney, and asked that names of nurses who were willing to assist be given to him. This is certainly an interesting work, and we hope our members may show an inclination to help it on as far as lies in their power. Five names were proposed for membership and two members and one associate were admitted, Miss Head and Miss Day and Miss Alice Sargent. The usual social hour closed the meeting.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Guild of St. Barnabas had a most interesting meeting on the evening of October 5. The business of the guild was speedily transacted, and at eight o'clock the parlors of the Guild House were filled with an attentive audience, who listened with pleasure to an illustrated lecture given by Dr. Oliver Belt, one of Washington's excellent oculists. His subject was, "The Eye: Its Structure, Diseases, and Treatment," and the lecture was given in so clear a manner that even the uninitiated could understand and enjoy it. Rev. Dr. Buck, of Rock Creek Parish, our beloved and faithful chaplain, was one of the most attentive listeners. At the close of the lecture a vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Belt for the lecture so kindly given by him to the guild. Simple refreshments were then served, and an hour was enjoyably spent in social conversation. More lectures are promised us by other noted specialists in our city for future meetings.